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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising:

speech recognition means for recognizing speech including a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described; and

control means for controlling said speech recognition means in accordance with a growth state of said robot, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; and

action decision means for determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized by said speech recognition means and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state;

wherein said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means changes the recognition accuracy of said speech recognition means in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 4. (canceled)

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Claim 5. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a plurality of dictionaries in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described such that the words to be recognized are divided into groups and the respective groups of words are stored in different dictionaries; and

said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in the respective dictionaries are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech recognition means includes a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described such that other words are linked to said words to be recognized; and

said control means controls said speech recognition means such that another word linked to a word, which is included in the dictionary and which is obtained as a speech recognition result, is output as a final speech recognition word depending upon the growth state of the robot.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein words to be recognized in speech recognition are described in said dictionary such that said words are linked to other acoustically or semantically similar words.

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Claim 8. (previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said control means controls the maximum number of words allowed to be described in said dictionary, in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (previously presented) A speech recognition method for a speech recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising the steps of:

recognizing speech using a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described; and

controlling said speech recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said robot, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; and

determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state;

wherein said control step controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A storage medium on which a program to be executed by a computer to make a robot perform speech recognition is stored, said program

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comprising the steps of:

recognizing speech using a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech recognition are described; and

controlling said speech recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said robot, wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; and

determining and performing a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state;

wherein said control step controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words.